



National Tuberculosis Controllers Association Executive Board Conference Call Minutes August 20, 2009

I. Attendees

- A. Carol Pozsik, Denise Ingman, Kristin Rounds, Kathy Hursen, Cristie Chesler, Shea Rabley, Jon Warkentin, Sue Etkind, Allan Lynch, Charles Wallace, Iram Bakhtawar, James Watt, Jim Cobb, Peter Davidson, Michael Leonard, Kathy Kolaski, Alex Bowler
- B. CDC Staff: Phil Talboy, Kashef Ijaz, Dawn Tuckey, Drew Posey
- C. Guests: None

II. NTCA Board Discussion Items

- A. Executive Office Report
 - o Nursing Manual – Carol Pozsik
The TB Nursing Manual is very outdated. It was popular document, and a new working group chaired by Jan Young in California is working on an update. The group has met once to begin reviewing content. Carol Pozsik and Jennifer Kanouse are members of the workgroup.
 - o Special Projects – Jennifer Kanouse
The Website Committee met and is preparing a survey to determine needs of the membership as they prepare to redesign the site. Carol, Phil Griffin, and Jennifer met recently to strategize on what information is needed and how best to obtain it for completing the state program profiles that will ultimately be available for advocacy purposes. Jennifer will be meeting with RESULTS personnel and Curry Center personnel for input on this project also.
- B. Student and Worker Visas and Technical Instructions – Iram Bakhtawar
 - o At the last ACET meeting there was discussion about expanding technical instruction (TI) projects to include students and workers coming in on visas. Drew Posey commented that this had been considered previously, but it was not implemented because of the immensity of the project.
 - o Iram will take back a proposal to ACET. Iram commented that she thinks there is enough interest to discuss further and take back a proposal to ACET, who in turn could recommend that DGMQ explore the inclusion of these two groups in the TI process. Following further discussion, it was decided that Iram will bring the request to ACET with NTCA's support.

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- C. Marshall Islands and TB – Iram Bakhtawar
- Iram initiated the discussion by saying that TB rates in the Marshallese population re-locating to the US are high and now that she is on ACET, she would like ACET to address the problem. Iram said Arkansas and some other states greatly impacted have presented data to DTBE, but there has not been enough funding to adequately address the problem.
 - Drew Posey clarified that the Compact of Free Association applies to this and that the islands do not fall under DGMQ because the residents are not immigrants or refugees.

D. Committee/Workgroup Reports

- Technical Instructions (TIs) and Adoptees – Sue Etkind
A meeting at CDC is being convened to present the issues and develop a plan. The Technical Instructions working group is scheduled to be on the call.
- Model Law – Carol Pozsik
At the last ACET meeting, it was announced that the CDC group working on the Model Laws is developing a menu of items based on their findings and research of state laws. The intent is for state TB personnel to have the option of selecting items appropriate for their individual state.

III. CDC Discussion Items

A. Funding Issues

- Kashef said DTBE received the request through Phil Griffin to establish a “funding floor” for the territories and islands similar to the one recently established for the hold-harmless states.
- DTBE will be having an internal meeting to look at all the information and will make a decision.

B. Model Law

- CDC anticipates there may be an in-person meeting after the first of the year to finalize the document.
- CDC hopes to have the final version ready by the annual conference in June 2010.

C. Changes at CDC

- Phil Talboy reviewed some of the changes being made under the new director, Tom Frieden.
- An evaluation of business services was completed and the result is that the business center is being dissolved. A work group was formed to revise the system.
- Kashef Ijaz added that CDC is also looking at developing a National Center for Global Health. There is already a draft plan and ongoing discussion, and this may happen quickly.

D. Technical Instruction (TI) Update

- Kashef just returned from a panel visit in Nepal for the Bhutanese refugees.
- He reported there are about seven camps there, and they are doing an excellent job. A report will be given to ACET at their next regular meeting.

E. US-Mexico Border Issues

- Eugene McCrae's group is involved in several projects going on around the border.
- They want to review and evaluate if there are any unmet needs and are starting by reviewing the projects in California with Kathy Moser.
- Next they will begin working with Charles Wallace in Texas.

F. Updated IGRA Guideline

- Kashef reported that the newest IGRA guideline has gone through the internal clearance process.
- Now it will go to Dr. Castro for review.

G. Kashef on Work Detail

- Kashef announced that he is going on a detail with NCID for 60-90 days beginning the end of August. Dr. Castro will be sending out a notice to all the TB controllers soon.
- Kashef said he hopes to return to TB and will stay informed of TB issues through regular meetings while he is re-assigned.
- Board members assured Kashef that we want him back!!

IV. Next Meeting

The next NTCA conference call will be September 17, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Minutes submitted by Denise Ingman, NTCA Secretary.